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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Utility Workers and Volunteers Impacted By Hurricane Matthew Urged to Early Vote

CHICAGO, **IL** – **October 6, 2016** - The State Board of Elections is strongly urging utility workers, volunteers and others who may be travelling out-of-state to assist in the anticipated clean-up from Hurricane Matthew to early vote prior to departing the State of Illinois.

There is no assurance that those impacted will return in time to cast an in-person vote on November 8, 2016. Early voting prior to departing guarantees utility workers, volunteers and others involved in the clean-up that their ballots will be cast.

Those who request a mail-in ballot at this point may encounter difficulties either receiving the ballot and/or timely returning the ballot, as it must be post-marked by November 8, 2016. Thus, early voting appears to be the best option for those anticipating assisting in Hurricane Matthew clean-up efforts.

Registered voters should contact their election authority for early voting locations and times. Early voting locations are also available on the Board's website, www.elections.il.gov, by clicking "Voters" and "When and Where Can I Vote."

The State Board of Elections is an independent state agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the State of Illinois. Elections are administered locally by the State's 109 election authorities.